



Health and Safety Plan 2023-2024

MILLCREEK TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT



ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan Guidance & Template

Section 2001(i)(1) of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires each local education agency (LEA) that receives funding under the ARP Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund to develop and make publicly available on the LEA's website a *Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan*, hereinafter referred to as a *Health and Safety Plan*.

Based on ARP requirements, 90 percent of ARP ESSER funds will be distributed to school districts and charter schools based on their relative share of Title I-A funding in FY 2020-2021. **Given Federally required timelines, LEAs eligible to apply for and receive this portion of the ARP ESSER funding must submit a Health and Safety Plan that meets ARP Act requirements to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) by Friday, July 30, 2021, regardless of when the LEA submits its ARP ESSER application.**

Each LEA must create a Health and Safety Plan that addresses how it will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff, and which will serve as local guidelines for all instructional and non-instructional school activities during the period of the LEA's ARP ESSER grant. The Health and Safety Plan should be tailored to the unique needs of each LEA and its schools and must take into account public comment related to the development of, and subsequent revisions to, the Health and Safety Plan.

The ARP Act and U.S. Department of Education rules require Health and Safety plans include the following components:

1. How the LEA will, to the greatest extent practicable, implement prevention and mitigation policies in line with the most up-to-date guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the reopening and operation of school facilities in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning;
2. How the LEA will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address the students' academic needs, and students' and staff members' social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services;

3. How the LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policy on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC:
 - a. Universal and correct wearing of [masks](#);
 - b. Modifying facilities to allow for [physical distancing](#) (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);
 - c. [Handwashing and respiratory etiquette](#);
 - d. [Cleaning](#) and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving [ventilation](#);
 - e. [Contact tracing](#) in combination with [isolation](#) and [quarantine](#), in collaboration with State and local health departments;
 - f. [Diagnostic](#) and screening testing;
 - g. Efforts to provide COVID-19 [vaccinations to school communities](#);
 - h. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and
 - i. Coordination with state and local health officials.

The LEA's Health and Safety Plan must be approved by its governing body and posted on the LEA's publicly available website by July 30, 2021.* The ARP Act requires LEAs to post their Health and Safety Plans online in a language that parents/caregivers can understand, or, if it is not practicable to provide written translations to an individual with limited English proficiency, be orally translated. The plan also must be provided in an alternative format accessible, upon request, by a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Each LEA will upload in the eGrants system its updated Health and Safety Plan and webpage URL where the plan is located on the LEA's publicly available website.

The ARP Act requires LEAs to review their Health and Safety Plans at least every six months during the period of the LEA's ARP ESSER grant. LEAs also must review and update their plans whenever there are significant changes to the CDC recommendations for K-12 schools. Like the development of the plan, all revisions must be informed by community input and reviewed and approved by the governing body prior to posting on the LEA's publicly available website.

LEAs may use the template to revise their current Health and Safety Plans to meet ARP requirements and ensure all stakeholders are fully informed of the LEA's plan to safely resume instructional and non-instructional school activities, including in-person learning, for the current school year. An LEA may use a different plan template or format provided it includes all the elements required by the ARP Act, as listed above.

* The July 30 deadline applies only to school districts and charter schools that received federal Title I-A funds in FY 2020-2021 and intend to apply for and receive ARP ESSER funding.

Additional Resources

LEAs are advised to review the following resources when developing their Health and Safety Plans:

- [CDC K-12 School Operational Strategy](#)
- [PDE Resources for School Communities During COVID-19](#)
- [PDE Roadmap for Education Leaders](#)
- [PDE Accelerated Learning Through an Integrated System of Support](#)
- [PA Department of Health - COVID-19 in Pennsylvania](#)

Health and Safety Plan Summary: Millcreek Township School District

Initial Effective Date: **July 1, 2021**

Date of Last Review: **November 13, 2023**

Date of Last Revision: **November 13, 2023**

1. How will the LEA, to the greatest extent practicable, support prevention and mitigation policies in line with the most up-to-date guidance from the CDC for the reopening and operation of school facilities in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning?

With a robust health and safety plan, along with a layered mitigation strategy, and collaboration through administration, Pandemic Team, staff, students, and families. MTSD will continue to stay up-to-date with changing guidance in order to continuously and safely remain in-person for learning. MTSD will actively educate and communicate what to expect if a COVID-19 case is identified among the school community. MTSD will proactively educate K-12 school staff, educators, students, and families about the steps they can take to protect themselves and others to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Additionally, how staff, students, educators, and others in the school community can safely quarantine and/or isolate and monitor for symptoms.

2. How will the LEA ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address the students' academic needs, and students' and staff members' social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services?

To address our student social and emotional learning needs, K-8 students will be screened as part of their Second Step SEL instructional programming, while grades 9-12 students will be universally screened by the school psychologists and guidance counselors. Students with complex medical, social/emotional or academic needs will be addressed on an individual basis through the student support team, case managers and administrators to address their unique and individualized needs. Social stories will be developed for these students as appropriate. Visual schedules and reminders will be developed for students who benefit from visual cueing. Direct instruction during extended school year will be utilized to prepare students for expected hygiene protocols and social distancing. Student and staff social, emotional, and mental health needs will be addressed using an increase in mental health professionals, a social and emotional learning screening process and programming and referrals for continued support.

3. Use the table below to explain how the LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policy on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>a. Universal and correct wearing of masks;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MTSD, in determining the district’s masking policy for grades K-12 the Board of School Directors will take into consideration MTSD, local and county COVID-19 infection rates, community spread, and consideration of guidance for K-12 mask wearing from the CDC, PDE, and PA DOH, and ECDOH. • Beginning with the start of the 2022-2023 school year, masking will be at the personal discretion of students, parents, and staff. Based on the above information however, the District retains discretion to require masking as appropriate to control and prevent community spread. • Building level spread and clustering may be considered and the Superintendent of schools in coordination with the District’s Pandemic Team may require a building level and/or District shift to universal masking. • Accommodations for students requiring a mask exemption will be made in partnership with the student’s health care provider, school nurse, and Individual Education Plan (IEP)/Section 504 team.
<p>b. Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow current CDC guidance for increasing space and distance. <i>As of 8-11-22, CDC does not recommend modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing.</i>
<p>c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School nursing will review proper handwashing using age appropriate K-12 lessons with soap and water for at least 20 seconds at the beginning of the year and or sanitizing with at least 60% alcohol content when soap and water not available to promote hand hygiene. • Signs displayed to remind staff and students about proper handwashing/hygiene throughout buildings • Additional opportunities provided to students for hygiene/hand-washing (breaks for washing, hand sanitizer available) • To avoid poison emergencies, hand sanitizers will be stored away, and out of sight of children under 6 years of age and used with adult supervision. • Teachers will emphasize covering your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing with proper handwashing.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation ;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disinfectant and hand sanitizer will be provided to each classroom for daily use. • Drinking fountains are available to fill water bottles or cups in all buildings. Signage will be posted at each drinking fountain to instruct proper use. • Open windows to increase air circulation in the area when possible, including transportation vehicles. • Ventilation will be monitored and adjusted as needed.
e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine , in collaboration with the State and local health departments;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolation following CDC and Erie County Department of Health (see attached) guidelines will occur if anyone is symptomatic or exposed to someone with Covid-19 until they complete necessary requirements to return to school. • Any staff or students who are symptomatic will be referred to the nurse. • Parents will be required to pick up students who are exhibiting symptoms. • All local and state health department guidelines will continue to be updated and followed as changes occur. • The Superintendent in coordination with the District's Pandemic Team and administration may conduct contact tracing based upon facts and circumstances of individual cases. • MTSD will update active district case counts and quarantine via website dashboard. • MTSD will review MTSD building level spread of the virus and clustering and use local, state, and CDC guidance when considering an intermittent building closure for COVID-19. This includes but is not limited to: if any one building experiences rapid and or uncontrolled spread of COVID-19 related to a cluster transmission in collaboration with local ECDOH guidance. • MTSD website will be utilized to share any necessary information with parents, staff and community following ECDOH guidelines.
f. Diagnostic and screening testing;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a student, teacher, or staff member becomes sick at school they will be referred to the nurse. • If a student, teacher, or staff member reports a new COVID-19 diagnosis, isolation dates will be given in coordination with the CDC and ECDOH guidelines. The individual will be required to complete the necessary isolation prior to return. • Notifications will be sent via communications and accessible for all students, parents, and/or guardians.
g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities ;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MTSD may offer information about vaccination opportunities.
h. Appropriate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students with complex medical, social/emotional or academic needs will be addressed on an individual basis through the student support team, case managers and administrators to address their unique and

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>individualized needs. Social stories will be developed for these students as appropriate. Visual schedules and reminders will be developed for students who benefit from visual cueing.</p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MTSD will collaborate with local, state, and Center for Disease Control guidance to ensure compliance with applicable laws related to COVID-19 and related activities. • MTSD Pandemic Coordinator will collaborate with Erie County Department of Health to report COVID-19 cases to the health department, in accordance with applicable privacy laws and the collection/sharing of information. • Students, staff, and educators diagnosed with COVID-19 will isolate and stay away from the school district premises following CDC and ECDOH guidelines until requirements for end of isolation are met. • All activities and information by MTSD to promote healthy behavior, maintain healthy environments, and prevent spread of COVID-19 will be consistent with applicable federal, state, tribal, local, and territorial privacy, public health, health/medical, and workplace laws and regulations.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors for **Millcreek Township School District** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on November 13, 2023

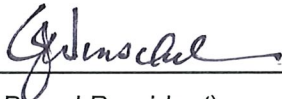
The plan was approved by a vote of:

9 Yes
0 No

Affirmed on: November 13, 2023

Revised and Approved on November 13, 2023

By:



(Signature* of Board President)

Gary J. Winschel

(Print Name of Board President)

*Electronic signatures on this document are acceptable using one of the two methods detailed below.

Option A: The use of actual signatures is encouraged whenever possible. This method requires that the document be printed, signed, scanned, and then submitted.

Option B: If printing and scanning are not possible, add an electronic signature using the resident Microsoft Office product signature option, which is free to everyone, no installation or purchase needed.